

## REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are currently pending in this application in which claims 23-26 have been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8-13, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Giebeler et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 20020176801). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicant respectfully refers the Examiner to the previous Response dated December 13, 2005 which explains the present invention in detail. Briefly, the invention as claimed in claim 1 provides a measurement unit that is used to observe a large-area rectangular region of the microplate so that the luminescence signal of each well is measured while the dispensing of wells occurs column by column. Applicant has amended claim 1 to specifically recite that the imaging camera is adapted to image a large-area rectangular field of observation that includes *a plurality of columns* of wells which are imaged simultaneously.

In contrast, Giebeler only observes at best on column per time by using separate photomultipliers for each single well, starting the observation after dispensing fluid in the watched column of wells, and then observing the change by measuring the maximum luminescence signal in relation to the basic signal before the dispensing of specimen.

Applicant submits that Giebeler does not teach or suggest the large-area rectangular field of observation that includes *a plurality of columns* of wells as claimed in claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-5, 8-13 and 19-20 are also patentable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 1.

The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giebeler in view of Marouiss et al. (US Patent Publication 20010048899). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giebeler et al in view of Schick (U.S. Patent Publication 20030230521). Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giebeler in view of Sekiya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,828,498), and further in view of Gerdt (U.S. Patent No. 6, 731, 845). Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giebeler in view of Sekiya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,828,498), Gerdt (U.S. Patent No. 6, 731, 845) and Phillips et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,052).

Applicant submits that dependent claims 6-7, 14-16 and 17-18 are also patentable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 1.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants request the reconsideration and allowance of the present application. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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